

Financial Aid News

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Online resources for aid administrators

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Higher Education
Coordinating Board

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Issue 21 — March 7, 2003

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HECB seeks input on ways to improve the Unit Record

The Higher Education Coordinating Board is considering ways to improve the quality of data in the Unit Record Report (URR). As we have reported before, Board staff and other state policymakers use URR data extensively in presenting the need for financial aid funding to the governor's office and the Legislature; for describing who receives assistance; and for policy studies and program evaluations. It is to everyone's benefit that reported data are accurate and complete — and that they provide the information needed to make good policy and programmatic decisions for our students.

Board staff plan to convene a group of institutional financial aid administrators and information technology staff responsible for Unit Record reporting. The group will discuss current reporting issues and possible changes to URR requirements. We anticipate that the group will meet twice — probably in April and June.

If you or your information technology staff want to participate, please contact Bruce Parrish, the Board contact for Unit Record reporting, at brucep@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7853.

SWS administrators have another opportunity to request or return funds

Next survey of expenditures due March 21

State Work Study (SWS) staff this week sent the March 2003 survey of expenditures to student employment and financial aid administrators. The survey offers another opportunity for colleges and universities to request or return SWS funds. The deadline for responses is Friday, March 21.

According to Betty Gebhardt, associate director for education services at the Board, overall 2002-03 SWS spending is similar to last year at this time.

SWS staff sent a program update memorandum with the survey. For more information about the survey or other SWS program news, contact Cindy McBeth at cindym@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7842.

Scholarships for southpaws, knitters, and wannabe watchmakers

It appears that the hype put out by scholarship search services has some basis in fact. According to a recent report published in *The Seattle Times*, there really is a scholarship for everyone — or darn near.

Reporter Scott Stephens of the Newshouse News Service uncovered a cornucopia of kooky awards:

- The Joseph Bulova School of Watchmaking offers \$15,000 awards to disabled foreign students.
- If your last name is Gatlin or Gatling, North Carolina State may have a scholarship with your first name on it too.
- Knitters can try for the “National Make It Yourself With Wool” scholarship.
- And, of course, there is the proverbial scholarship for left-handers at Juniata College in Pennsylvania.

The article, which lists many more of the esoteric awards, is online:

[Scholarships for all shapes and sizes.](#)

Legislative update

Lawmakers reached the first of several bill cutoffs on March 5, and the expanding universe of new legislation began to contract.

This first cutoff required that most bills be passed by their committee of origin — including the House and Senate higher education committees — to remain in play this session.

Several bills are moving forward

A number of bills that we've been tracking met the cutoff and remain active. We will continue to follow these bills and keep you posted about their progress. Active bills include the following:

- **Educational Opportunity Grant (EOG)** — Senate Bill 5676 and Substitute House Bill 1731 permit the EOG to be used at UW and WSU branch campuses and allow students from all 39 counties to apply. The House proposal (as amended) maintains the maximum grant amount at the current \$2,500; the Senate bill gives the Higher Education Coordinating Board authority to set amounts.
- **Financial aid carry-forward** — Substitute House Bill 1123 allows the state to carry forward unspent financial aid funds from one fiscal year to the next through the creation of a special account.
- **Promise Scholarship** — Several bills concerning the Promise Scholarship are moving forward. Substitute Senate Bill 5138 allows students who meet math and reading standards on the high school WASL to qualify academically for the scholarship. Senate Bill 5864 would open the scholarship to some recipients of GED certificates.

Substitute House Bill 1706 originally would have eliminated academic benchmarks for the program and substituted a nomination process for students who "have overcome personal or financial barriers and show promise to succeed" in higher education. As amended, the bill now preserves the program's original academic requirements, but creates a two-year pilot project allowing five additional students from each legislative district to qualify based on the "overcoming barriers/promise to succeed" criteria.

- **Tuition refunds** — House Bill 2113 permits public four-year institutions to adopt tuition refund policies that mirror federal aid repayment formulas.
- **Resident status for undocumented students** — Both Engrossed House Bill 1079 and Substitute Senate Bill 5158 — though not companions — would authorize resident tuition for certain undocumented students living in the state. In a 75-20 vote, EHB 1079 has already passed the House and been referred to the Senate for further action.

Other bills did not make the cutoff

A number of bills did not pass out of committee by March 5, and we will not be tracking them further in our weekly "bills of interest" chart. Among the bills that missed this cutoff:

- **Endowed scholarship for Hispanic Americans** — SB 5004
- **Prohibition on the administration of credit card applications on higher education campuses** — HB 1934
- **Tuition waivers for children of faculty** — SB 5357

- **State Need Grant use at historically black colleges** — SB 5405
- **Higher Education for Lifelong Progress program** — SB 5249

The next stop for legislation

Once an originating committee recommends a bill for passage, the bill goes to other committees in its house of origin for approval, or sometimes directly to the floor for a vote. Bills passing a floor vote then move to the other house for consideration, where the committee review process starts again.

March 19 marks the next major cutoff. Each house must pass its own bills and refer them the other house for consideration. Most committees have to complete their work on the opposite house's bills by April 4. The last day for a floor vote on any bills from the opposite house is April 18.

Bear in mind that the failure to meet a cutoff does not necessarily spell the end of a legislative proposal. Bills relating to the budget, or matters necessary to implement the budget, are exempt from cutoffs until the 96th day of the session (April 18). Some proposals might find new life as part of a budget bill. And bills that do not pass this session may be reconsidered in 2004 during the 58th Legislature's second regular session.

For more information about legislation, contact us at (360) 753-7850.

Legislative hearings give way to floor action

With the cutoffs on new legislation, most committees will not be meeting for the next couple of weeks. Instead, lawmakers are scheduled for floor debate and action on bills recommended for passage.

Online resources for tracking and analyzing legislation

Full text of bills and supporting materials:	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm
Complete legislative hearing schedule:	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm
Live and archived Web broadcast of all hearings:	http://www.tvw.org
HECB 2003 legislative session site:	http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Leg/index.asp

Active bills of interest by subject

For current information about the status of a bill, visit the Washington State Legislature's Web site: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm>.

Bill numbers **Sponsors** **Description**
 Senate
 House

Washington Promise Scholarship

SSB 5138	Carlson	Allows any student who meets the standard on the reading and math components of the high school Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) to qualify academically for the Promise Scholarship
SB 5864	Shin, Carlson	Allows some recipients of GED certificates to be eligible for Promise scholarships; recipients must meet family income criteria, be 21 years old or younger at time of application, and achieve an SAT composite score of at least 1200 or an ACT composite score of at least 27 on their first attempt
SHB 1706	Mastin, Grant	As substituted, preserves current eligibility requirements of program; establishes a pilot program where five students from each legislative district may also be chosen because they "have overcome personal or financial barriers and show promise to succeed" in college

Educational Opportunity Grant

SB 5676	Kohl-Welles	Changes elements of the Educational Opportunity Grant program; financially needy placebound residents from all of the state's 39 counties may be eligible; recipients could attend branch campuses; HECB establishes grant amounts
SHB 1731	Kenney, Cox	Changes elements of the Educational Opportunity Grant program; financially needy placebound residents from all of the state's 39 counties may be eligible; recipients could attend branch campuses; grant amounts capped at \$2,500

Conditional scholarships for prospective teachers

HB 1763	Berkey, Jarrett	Provides conditional scholarship for prospective teachers pursuing certificates in mathematics, science, technology, special education, or bilingual education
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Financial aid carry-forward

SHB 1123	Kenney, Cox	Ensures that unspent financial aid funds at the end of a fiscal year are preserved for financial aid purposes through the creation of a dedicated account
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Active bills of interest by subject — continued

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Bill numbers	Sponsors	Description
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Senate
House

Financial aid refunds

HB 2113	Morrell, Cox	Permits four-year public institutions to adopt tuition refund policies that reduce aid recipients' liability in required repayments of federal aid
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Other financial aid and tuition waiver proposals

SSB 5189	Benton	Exempts veterans of the Korean conflict (active duty from 1950-55) from tuition increases
SSB 5660	Kohl-Welles, Carlson	Companion bills create a supplemental educational assistance grant program for State Need Grant eligible students with dependents; private sources would fund the program
SHB 1277	Kenney, Cox	
SHB 1486	O'Brien	Exempts the surviving spouses and children of certain law enforcement officers or firefighters from paying tuition and fees
SHB 2089	McCoy, Wallace	Creates a new veterans tuition waiver statute to replace existing law; as amended, permits waivers for veterans of wars and, under some circumstances, for their children and spouses

TANF and WorkFirst related proposals

HB 2041	Kenney, Boldt	Allows students enrolled in a postsecondary program and earning their full federal or state work study awards to count as full-time WorkFirst participants for up to 24 months
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Proposals concerning the Higher Education Coordinating Board

SHB 2076	Kenney, Cox, Fromhold	Replaces Board's current mandate to develop a state master plan for higher education every four years with new guidelines to develop a strategic plan for higher education; authorizes a joint legislative committee to examine and make recommendations for changing or reassigning Board program responsibilities
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Active bills of interest by subject — continued

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Bill numbers	Sponsors	Description
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Senate
House

Tuition and residency

SSB 5135	Carlson, Kohl-Welles	Requires students with an excess of 120 percent of the credits required for a degree or certificate to pay tuition equivalent to the full cost of instruction
SSB 5158	Carlson, McAuliffe	Authorizes resident tuition for certain undocumented students residing in Washington; student must have lived in Washington three years prior to graduation and spend full senior year of high school in the state; similar, though not a companion to EHB 1079
EHB 1079	Kenney, Cox	Authorizes resident tuition for certain undocumented students residing in Washington; student must have attended at least three years of high school in the state; similar, though not a companion to SSB 5158
SSB 5448 SHB 1437	Carlson, Kohl-Welles Kenney, Cox	Companion bills, as amended, extend institutional tuition-setting authority for all but resident undergraduates through 2008-09; existing authority expires June 30, 2003

Other higher education proposals

SB 5902	Kohl-Welles	Creates a state income tax for individuals with incomes of \$500,000 or more, families with incomes of \$1 million or more; revenue would be earmarked for K-12 and higher education
SHB 2111	Priest, Jarrett	As amended, provides for a legislative study of the feasibility of performance contracts between the state and institutions of higher education